

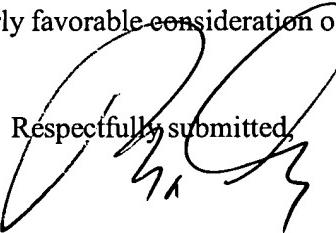
Remarks:

Claims 1-15 and 19-26 are pending in this application. Claims 16-18 and 27-43 have been cancelled without prejudice to introducing the cancelled claims in a related application.

The Examiner considered the application as filed to contain four inventions: one invention claimed in Group I, including claims 1-15 and 19-26; one invention claimed in Group II, including claims 16-18, 27 and 28; one invention claimed in Group III, including claims 29-39; and one invention claimed in Group IV, including claims 40-43. The Applicant has elected to pursue the claims (1-15 and 19-26) of Group I. The claims (16-18 and 27-43) of Groups II-IV have been cancelled.

In view of the foregoing, early favorable consideration of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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November 23, 2005
RAD/CCC
92118-95